

TWENTY-YEAR WATER CONTRACT IS LEGAL, BUT NOT EQUITABLE

Is Not Successful Evasion of City Charter, Runs From Year to Year, and May be Set Aside at the End of Any Year.

Board of Apportionment Has Only to Withhold Appro-
priation—A Few Pertinent Facts Which "Myself
and My Father" May Consider—State of the Pub-
lic Mind Due Not to Agitators, but to Outraged Mor-
al Sense of the Community.

The letter written by De Ver H. Warner to Mayor Lee, explaining the views of "my father and myself" upon the 20 year water contract and the movement for its extinction, is the first distinctly human note in the bitter fight made by the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company to obtain the contract and to preserve it after its execution was accomplished.

It appears that some corporations do have souls inasmuch as campaigns waged against wrongful corporate acts have in certain cases at least, power to awaken in individuals connected with such corporations the sense of responsibility, and the feeling that they, as individuals, are held to moral accounting by the public, in the same way as men are held accountable by the public for their own persons.

The human quality in Mr. Warner's letter is that it is mainly an attempt to justify two individuals, "my father and myself," who have been charged with public condemnation, but which has never been charged against Mr. Warner, either father or son.

True, it has been generally known that "my father and myself" were the executive officers of the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company, but there has been, until now, no reason to suppose that the "active" executive officers and no body has been certain that they were the active authors of a line of action that might have been the product of so zealous servants of the large corporations frequently have.

The letter to Mayor Lee is plainly the letter of men who recognize the existence of a public opinion moving in the direction of the extinction of such an opinion should exist, and who desire to modify it, less for the financial benefits that a modification would bring than for the moral reasons re-habilitated in public esteem.

The almost world wide agitation against the aggressions of special-privilege wealth, which in this country has been led by President Roosevelt, has developed nothing so remarkable as the fact that those whom the president has described as the criminal class are less sensitive to the diminution of their revenues through the activity of an awakened public conscience, than to the loss of the regard and affection of their fellow citizens.

The reminiscences of Mr. Rockefeller, now running in one of the periodicals, are devoted to proving that he is just an ordinary man with a bit of side with love for his fellow creatures, who has made mistakes, but by a too great zeal, rather than out of a mere sordid desire to pile up riches.

Mr. Warner's letter is even more a statement of the stern public judgment have brought home to the administrators of monopolies the truth that the public wealth under the leadership of President Roosevelt, has been developed.

The "agitation" against which "my father and myself" protest, is not a local thing, it is merely typical of a form of protest that is being repeated throughout the world. Its object is not Mr. Rockefeller, it is not "my father and myself," but its object is to halt a system, which amounts to the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few, and to show that this is a country, in which neither a Rockefeller, a Harriman, or a "father and myself" are entitled to special privileges under the law.

Mr. Warner's letter is well enough as an explanation of the motives of himself and his father, but it is precisely proper that they should consider what the future will need in the way of water supply.

If they did not consider it, and provide for it, their charter says that all their rights, powers and privileges shall forthwith cease and terminate. The city did not need a twenty year contract to insure the performance of that obligation.

The exclusive right to sell a commodity, that is an absolute necessity, to 100,000 people and sold to be 200,000 people, is not one that "my father and myself" would forfeit, knowing as they do something of the difficulties of the public mind under the leadership of President Roosevelt, which nobody has exclusive rights to sell to anybody.

It is also true that business men know the necessity of contracts, as Mr. Warner says in his letter to the mayor. But they do not know the necessity of 20 year contracts, and it is exceedingly doubtful if there can be found in the city of Bridgeport a business man who has entered, or will enter into a contract to take a given commodity at a given price through a period one-fifth of a century in duration.

Again if "my father and myself" had a contract with some person, to supply water with some commodity, "at the lowest market rate," would he be entitled to a contract in which we agreed to pay for 20 years a price that is higher than the lowest market rate? It is not strictly entitled to the people of Bridgeport, but it is a contract of water of the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company at a "reasonable" price. They are entitled to this, and to a supply of water at as cheap a rate as any other city, shall be supplied by a private corporation.

They are also entitled to such revenues as may be obtained from the taxation of the property of the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company at its full value.

From the standpoint of public opinion every such act of renewal will be a wrongful act.

Let "my father and myself" submit to the plan proposed by Hon. John J. Phelan, a member of the tax board, which is to submit the contract to the public.

Do "my father and myself" fear the justice of the people?

HARBOR LINE HEARING NOT NECESSARY

This is Substance of Opinion
Given Mayor Lee by
City Attorney.

Might Be "Safer" to
Have Hearing If Intent
of Law Is In Doubt.

Opinion of Former City At-
torney Marr and of Alder-
man Gould Sustained—
Mayor's Veto Will Rest
on Flimsy Basis.

City Attorney Cullinan gave Mayor Lee an opinion, to-day, to the effect that no hearing is necessary for the establishment of harbor lines when the power is granted the city by the General Assembly to lay harbor lines without a hearing.

This bears out the opinion given by Attorney James A. Marr on the subject and also the statement of Alderman Gould before the Common Council at the time the so-called compromise line was established in place of the city harbor line.

It is expected that the mayor will include the opinion of the city attorney in his message to the council this evening, taking the compromise line.

The only question the mayor asked of the city attorney was whether or not the city could legally do it without a public hearing.

The mayor stated this morning that the opinion states that the General Assembly can delegate the power to establish harbor lines to the city. But the city attorney states that there is an oversight in the revised charter that it would be safer to hold hearings in establishing harbor lines, unless the intent of the legislature is perfectly clear.

The question of the liability of the city to pay damages in the case was not raised in the mayor's query to the city attorney, and therefore the opinion only relates to the right of the city to establish a harbor line without a hearing.

Twelve votes in the common council will sustain the veto, but it is expected that 13 votes to adopt the amended report of the harbor committee notwithstanding the veto.

The Mayor stated today that if his veto is sustained, the city harbor line will remain unchanged and the same as it was originally established by the Common Council.

Asked if he would make any recommendation in his veto message for the establishment of any other line, he said he would simply inform the Aldermen that the position upon the harbor line question was unchanged and that the council was well aware of where he stood. The Mayor is unequivocally in opposition to the city line.

ONE GOOD TURN DESERVES ANOTHER

John Syonoviski Helped
State Convict Nemegud
and Becker and Got Off
Easily.

Through the testimony of John Nemegud and John Becker, who were convicted of assault last week John Syonoviski, who conducts a saloon at the corner of Pembroke street and Berkeley avenue in the city, was freed from the charge of selling liquor to minors.

Information of the violation came to Liquor Prosecutor Merritt through the statements of John Nemegud and Becker who were convicted and the facts in the case would never have been known had not Syonoviski testified in the case.

Judge Pullman, when apprised of the situation, said he thought the case should not be nolle. The crime for which Nemegud and Becker were convicted was the direct result of the sale of intoxicants to them after they all had had enough. The cases which came up in the city court daily are traceable to this very practice of selling liquor to men already intoxicated.

The result is a brawl at unseemly hours, after the saloons close at midnight. The judge thought the only way to remedy the evil was to enforce the law.

He finally nolle the case on the payment of costs and will issue a certificate which will save Syonoviski's license for him.

John Syonoviski is a man of good character and has been in the city for many years. He is a native of Poland and has been in the city for many years. He is a native of Poland and has been in the city for many years.

TWO DEPUTIES SUCCEED SCULLY

Ireland and Skelly Added to
Staff of Sheriff Hawley.

Sheriff Sidney E. Hawley today appointed Thomas A. Skelly and Samuel C. Ireland, both of South Norwalk, deputy sheriffs, as successors to John W. Scully, resigned. Both are popular in their home town. Their selection meets with the approval of the majority of the town's business and men of that place. Ireland has been a constable for some time while Skelly is comparatively a young man.

MAINE'S ANCHOR AS MONUMENT TO HER DEAD

Dedicated Today at Arling-
ton National Cemetery,
at Washington.

Admiral Sigsbee Makes the
Chief Address—Anniver-
sary of Sinking of Battle-
ship in Havana Harbor
Fittingly Observed.

(Special from United Press.)
Washington, Feb. 15.—In the presence of a distinguished gathering at Arlington National cemetery this afternoon, the anchor of the battleship Maine which sank in Havana harbor eleven years ago today, was dedicated as a part of the monument to the sailor dead and the granite stone itself which marks the spot where one hundred and sixty-five of the men are sleeping, was covered with floral wreaths.

One of the offerings was a magnificent wreath from President Roosevelt, and other pieces were sent by the camps and posts of the various patriotic societies of the capital.

The exercises at Arlington were but one of a number of ceremonies commemorating the anniversary. The patriotic societies participating made the pilgrimage to the cemetery on foot from the Virginia end of Aqueduct Bridge; a band from Fort Myer played the National dirges; a bugler sounded "Taps" and Admiral Sigsbee, who commanded the Maine on the night of the disaster, delivered an address.

The Admiral said: "When the battleship Maine was destroyed at Havana, eleven years ago today, two of her officers and 250 members of her crew came to sudden death. Later eight members of her crew died in hospitals from wounds received in that awful catastrophe. Of the crew but sixteen men of the Maine wholly escaped injury. Her officers numbered 26 and her crew 328. Twenty-five of her dead are buried at Key West. Several are buried remotely at different places. Sixty-seven are buried only God knows where. Here in a cemetery dedicated to our country's heroic dead, lie 165 who were buried formerly in Colon cemetery in the city of Havana.

"In December, 1898, the battleship Maine, under the command of Admiral Sigsbee, was ordered to Havana and there, with the assistance of Chaplain John P. Childwick she took on board all of the Maine's dead from Colon cemetery and buried them in the city of Havana. They were laid to rest in Arlington in the presence of President McKinley, the Secretary of the Navy and other high officials of the government and distinguished army and navy officers.

"On that dark, overcast, quiet night, 'Taps' took on a new meaning to the sailors who were gathered here that night with exceptional solemnity. The call of the bugle seemed to echo back from the hills with ominous forebodings.

"Taps, the nightly signal for silence and sleep, was therefore the last distinctive sound heard by these men in life for in one-half hour they were dead. And the bugler, himself, was dead. He had sounded a requiem for himself and his shipmates.

"As we assemble here today to honor our dead, the manner of their dying calls for our deepest sympathy and most profound sorrow.

Beyond all doubt our whole people feel the loss of these men, the great gathering and the gatherings and ceremonies elsewhere today show that these dead are not forgotten. To me, as to no other man, has come a knowledge of the sorrows and distress and spread broadcast by that catastrophe of the Maine.

Comrades and friends—as the commander of the Maine when she was lost and so far as I may assume to be representative of this occasion—I join my hands to yours in patriotic fellowship and grateful appreciation of these commemorative services at Arlington.

Rev. Father McGuigan celebrated mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in the city of Washington, and in the evening memorial services are to be held at the First Presbyterian church.

KNOX RESOLUTION FAILS OF PASSAGE

House Declines to Pass Act
to Enable Him to Enter
Taft Cabinet.

(Special from United Press.)
Washington, Feb. 15.—The House this afternoon defeated by a vote of 179 yeas to 123 nays, the motion to suspend the rules and pass the Knox enabling measure. A two-thirds vote is required to pass such a motion. Speaker Cannon voted aye. An effort will now be made to bring in a special rule to pass the measure.

"We are asked to make an man eligible who is incapable under the constitution of being a member of the House. This bill is simply an effort to override the constitution by a statute. We are asked to stultify ourselves and we cannot be asked to do that. The House is not a political question."

Rucker, the ranking minority leader, made a bitter denunciation of the bill.

RAYMOND HITCHCOCK IS BANKRUPT

New York, Feb. 15.—Raymond Hitchcock, the actor, today filed a petition in voluntary bankruptcy, giving his liabilities as \$28,249, all unsecured.

OIL COMPANY PAYS FINE AND TAKES ITS MEDICINE

Kansas City, Feb. 15.—The Waters-Pierce Oil Company paid to the State of Missouri by certified check delivered to the clerk of the Supreme court \$20,000 and filed papers to accept every provision of the decree of the court on Dec. 22 last.

WOULD MAKE DIOCESE OF CONNECTICUT INTO TWO

Plan to Have Fairfield, New Haven and Litch-
field Counties Form New See.

Other Five Counties Would Retain Name of Old Dio-
cese, and Larger Portion of Endowments and In-
vested Funds—Plan Set Out in Detail by Rev. Dr.
Harriman, and Printed in Official Church Organ,
But Without Having Been Read by Rt. Rev. Bishop
Brewster, Who Would Have Choice as to Which
Diocese He Would Preside Over.

Clergymen and members of the Episcopal church in this State, are much interested in a discussion which is in progress as to the feasibility and wisdom of dividing the diocese of Connecticut.

The claim is made that the diocese has grown so large as to overtax a single bishop. Many believe that it will be better to have two dioceses and two bishops than one bishop and a bishop coadjutor.

The program of division is elaborately stated in an article in the Connecticut Churchman of Feb. 13, by Rev. Frederick W. Harriman, D. D., which has been the subject of much discussion in the Churchman, the official organ of the diocese.

It is made clear, however, that the article is published solely on the authority of the author and that the Rev. Dr. Harriman, D. D., bishop of the diocese, has not yet seen it. The tentative plan, as outlined by Dr. Harriman, is to make Fairfield and New Haven counties, together with Litchfield county, into a new diocese, leaving the other five counties to retain the title, Diocese of Connecticut.

It is pointed out that the Connecticut river forms the only division of the State on purely geographical lines that could be readily recognized, but on the other hand the strength of the church is almost wholly on the western side of such a division.

Dr. Harriman believes it would be a great help if Waterbury and Meriden could also be left to the old diocese. The question of support is considered. Dr. Harriman believes that, because the western diocese would be wealthy, while the eastern diocese would be poor, that it might be better to leave all of the invested funds with the eastern diocese, except those designated by the givers for the use of the three western counties.

As for names, Dr. Harriman thinks that the old diocese would go on without reorganization, retaining the name "Connecticut," and since there is a Roman Catholic bishop of Hartford, it would make confusion and be discourteous to duplicate the title. The new diocese might choose its own name, which might be "Western Connecticut," or better yet, "New Haven," inasmuch as the two chief colonies of the State were originally Connecticut and New Haven.

Under the general canons of the Episcopal church, Bishop Brewster would have the right of choosing between the two dioceses as to which he would continue to be the head. Dr. Harriman's views are stated in part, as follows:

"Forty-four years ago, January 13, Bishop Brownell was called to his rest. His assistant or coadjutor, Bishop Williams, who had long been doing most of the work succeeded in the full responsibility. That same year, at the convention in June, he closed his episcopal address with an earnest plea for division of the diocese. The reasons he gave are well worth considering to-day, and they apply more forcibly than ever before. It seems to me, he said, 'that we ought to be looking forward now to the erection of a new See within the limits of the present diocese.' As a legitimate outgrowth of Church life and Church extension, intensifying the one and expanding the other, I do advocate this division."

These matters have discussed two years, and decided adversely. It was felt that our compact little State was not too large for one man to supervise; and that if Bishop Williams were not doing so much at the Berkeley Divinity school, he might find time and strength for all his purely episcopal duties. A second proposal, by one of our members, was "Western Connecticut," and no public suggestion of the same sort has been made since, so far as I can remember.

THE WORK EXACTING.
"But the opinion is now beginning to grow among thoughtful men for the diocese that our Bishop is in danger of overwork. Compare the growth in all directions since 1865, as shown in the following statement:

Clergymen canonically resident	150	204
Parishes, fully organized	129	153
Mission stations, chapels, including Schools, etc.,	about 10	67
Places visited by the Bishop,	86	133
Sermons and addresses	229	283
Confirmed,	1,074	2,046
Families reported in the Diocese	5,744	22,907

Communicants in the Diocese, 12,176 37,993
"It is evident that the congregations to be visited have increased about fifty per cent., for every little mission, chapel and school deserves occasional visitation, and that means one more appointment for the Bishop in each case."

The increase in travel is not all countenanced by improved facilities, new railroads and trolley lines. The correspondence also has increased, until the thousands of letters every year are a serious burden, even with the aid of a stenographer. Our Bishop is considered by his episcopal brethren to be one of the hardest-worked in the whole House of Bishops. Connecticut is the fourth diocese in the United States as to size; not of course in square miles or distances to be traveled, but in parishes, clergy, communicants, and above all, in congregations to be visited. The dioceses of New York and Pennsylvania have more; but every one of them can be reached with ease, and the Bishop can return home the same night. This is true also in Massachusetts, with the exception of a few places on Cape Cod; and Massachusetts has fewer parishes and more missions than Connecticut. Our diocese stands third in that respect, and quite as high, if not higher in the list, in point of difficulty. Pennsylvania has a coadjutor; New York has had

CARE OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN URGED BY PRESIDENT

In Special Message to Con-
gress He Recommends
Bureau in Department of
Interior.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Governmental assistance in the care of dependent children was the appeal urged on Congress in a special message from President Roosevelt to-day. The message embodies the results of the recent conference on the care of dependent children which assembled at the White House at the President's invitation.

It recommends the establishment of a children's bureau in the department of the interior, to investigate the welfare of the unfortunate infant mortality rate, of degeneracy, employment and all matters affecting the children of the country.

"There are few things," says the message in this connection, "more vital to the welfare of the nation than accurate and dependable knowledge of the best methods of dealing with children."

The President suggests also that Congress enact laws for the District of Columbia and the territories. "I deem such legislation," the President says, "not only important for the welfare of the children immediately concerned but important as setting an example of a high standard of child protection by the National Government to the several states of the Union which should be able to look to the nation for a leader in such matters."

The President also sent a letter with the message, in behalf of the resolutions committee, containing the recommendations of that body.

BUTCHER'S STEEL PIERCES EYEBALL OF SPETRINO

Charles Spetrino, porter at the Lanchester House, Wall street, was painfully injured, Saturday, by having a butcher's sharpening steel accidentally whacked into his left eye. Spetrino, who is best known as "Casey," went to the Public Market on an errand. While standing in front of a counter, one of the men, who was putting a knife edge upon a knife, with the knife in one hand and a steel in the other, turned suddenly, without noticing "Casey" at his elbow, and the sharp point of the steel pierced the eyeball. The injured man was treated by Dr. H. E. Smyth. There is some hope that the sight of the eye may be saved.

(UNCLASSIFIED.)

WANTED.—Girl for general housework. 23 Fremont St. a p

TO RENT.—Flat of five rooms, improvements, to adults, 1743 Transtank Ave. B 15 a o

FOR SALE.—At a bargain, one bay horse, weight 1000, can be seen at Sterling's livery stable, 967 Main St. B 15 s p o

WANTED.—Bright, active girls, 15 to 18 years old, to sell goods in various departments. Kleban & Gelman. B 15 s

FOR SALE.—Fine building lot 40x100. Fruit trees and bearing. Will loan money to build on same. N. Detune. 1 Uclid Ave., near Bardsley Park. a

WANTED.—A man to take charge of our domestic wash goods and linen department. One with Bridgeport experience preferred. Kleban & Gelman. B 15 s

IRON MOULDERS WANTED. Apply H. J. Orr & Son, Cos Cob, Conn. B 12 s o

WANTED.—A first class man on Hartford Automatic Screw Machines. See wages and steady work to an A1 man. Postal Typewriter Co., Norwalk, Ct. B 12 s o

GOOD TIME.—Newfield Outing Club, dancing, Vaudeville, Tuesday, Feb. 15. Refreshments free. 25 cents. B 13 s o

WANTED.—Every one to attend what and dances given by Council 142, C. W. B. L. at Warner Institute, Wednesday evening, Feb. 17. Handsome prizes. Tickets 25c. B 13 s o

GREAT RELIEF from headache and constipation, Casca Laxative tablets, 25 cts. B 3 s o

CARD READER.—Advice on all affairs, 25c. Mrs. Levy, 674 Madison Ave., 4th house above North Ave. B 3 s o

FOR SALE.—Slightly used upright piano. Regular price \$350, for \$160. 814 Noble Ave. B 11 d o

WANTED.—Railway Mail Clerks, \$600 first year. Examination for Bridgeport May 15th. Preparation free. Franklin Institute, Dept. 609, Rochester, N. Y. B 3 s o

FOR SALE.—Prosperous foundry, in nearby town. Steady line of work, cupola 36 shell. Will take half mortgage. Good reason for selling. Address, H. F. Farmer. B 11 p o

FARM WANTED in this vicinity in exchange for a neat 7 room house, barn, etc., at Saugatuck, Ct. 5 minutes walk to Railroad Station and trolley. Box 227 Southport, Conn. B 11 d o

WANTED.—Lady or gentleman of fair education to represent us in each county. Will pay \$100.00 for five weeks' services. Address with stamped envelope and reference, Alexander Supply Company, 356 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill. B 12 s p o

REWARD.—Will be paid to the person or persons giving information of any one attending the ball given by Live Oak Camp, No. 18, Woodmen of the World, at Eales' Hall, Feb. 18, 1901, held by Harvey's orchestra. Who will not acknowledge the best of the season. Admission 25 cents a person. B 12 s p o

WANTED.—Young men to learn automobile business by mail and prepare for positions as chauffeurs and repair men. We make you expert in ten weeks; assist you to secure position. Pay big; work pleasant; demand for men great; reasonable; write for particulars and sample lesson. Empire Automobile Institute, Rochester, N. Y. B 15 s p